

SB 11

My name is Jamie Mott. I grew up middle-class the San Francisco Bay Area, California, I went to a good college and graduated with honors. As a young person, I would've never have pictured myself ending up with a chronic disability. However, towards the end of college I developed a repetitive strain injury in both arms and after 12 years I am still in unrelenting chronic pain.

I am currently not able to use my hands for work because any repetitive motion flares up my chronic injury. Still, I am determined to try to work part-time teaching citizenship classes at the Hartford public Library with the help of voice activated software. Because I try to work and I have limited medical records because I can't afford to pay out-of-pocket to see specialists, it makes it very hard for me to get onto the Social Security disability program which provides medical insurance to the disabled.

I am here to represent myself and my many disabled friends who physically cannot work full-time to get health insurance, who cannot get medical benefits from Social Security because of red tape and so are forced to buy private insurance.

For about eight years, I was living at home at my parents just so I could pay for insurance and out-of-pocket medical costs that comprised at least 70% of my income. Now I live in low income housing and have a large amount of disability related debt.

As we've watched the behavior of the health insurance companies in the last decade we've witnessed that they have no shame. We have learned first-hand that without solid consumer protections they will take away both the health and the savings of Americans. That is why it is so important to pass SB 11 so that insurance companies can't raise rates however they please without any public accountability.